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The Choice

To the Editor of the Gazette:

I recently spent more than a year in West Germany, and had the experience of talking with many Germans in several different walks of life. The Germans seemed to feel that they had to explain Nazism and the Second World War, and in the course of every conversation this subject would eventually come up. The most frequent explanation offered by my German friends was, "What you Americans and the rest of the world don't seem to understand is that in 1933 we had to choose between the Communist or the Nazis. The right or the ... there was no middle ... Besides all the 'good' people we ... Catholics, businessmen, doctors, etc. ..."

What the Germans do not seem to understand is that there was no middle government because it was not supported, and that though business men and doctors are successful and good people they are on the whole politically ignorant, and their advice should not be followed except in their own narrow fields.

All in all though the excuse offered by the Germans I spoke to is a good one. If one wants to believe it, one can without harming one's conscience too much. Perhaps it is good enough for us to use in about 1980. Only then we shall have to say to a foreigner: "Well ... you see, you ... of the world just ... understand. Back in 1962 ... choose between the ... and the John Birch. ... not any middle gov... ... Besides there were a ... of good people in the John ...

... further reflection, how... ... decided that it the ... residents of the Unit... ... Communist and ... heads of the CIA and ... don't get a chance ... on the lesser of ... The Communists ...

... me Withheld ...

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